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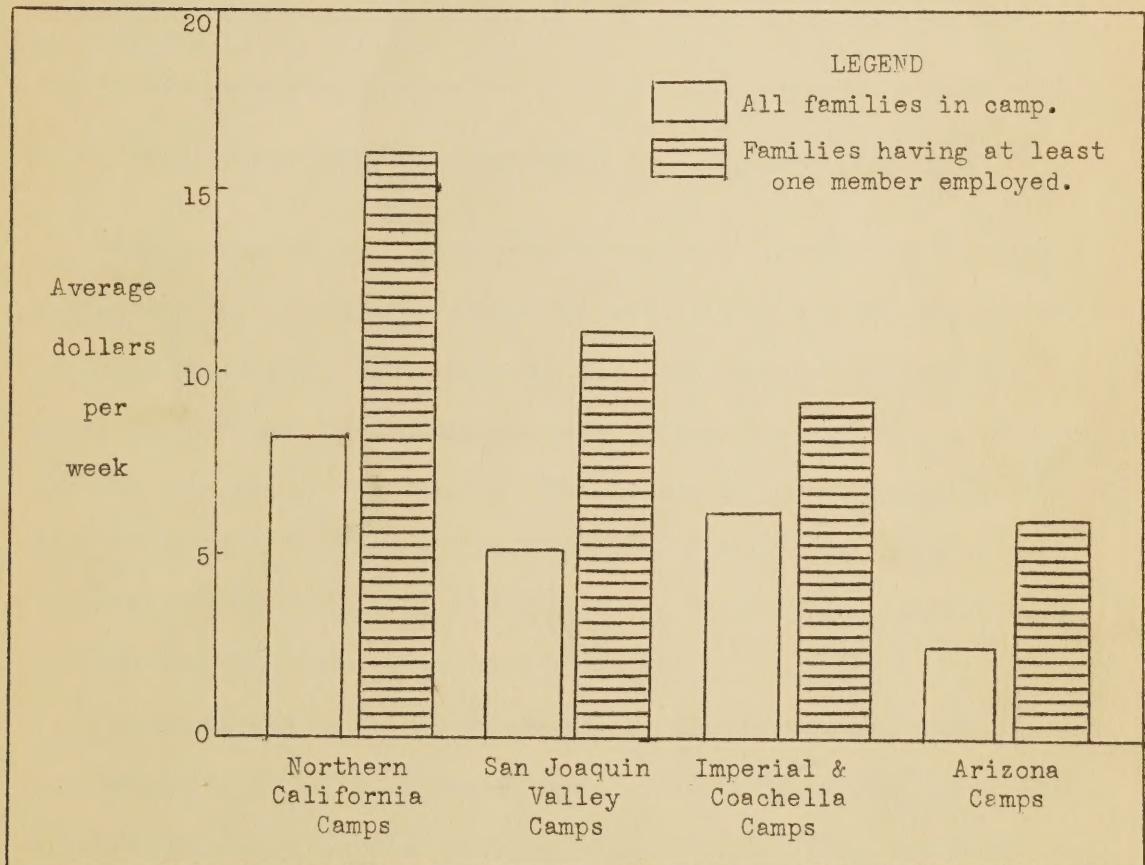
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
Farm Security Administration



Employment Situation of Agricultural Workers Living in
FSA Migratory Labor Camps

Current Report No. 4
Arizona-California Camps, April 27 to May 18, 1940

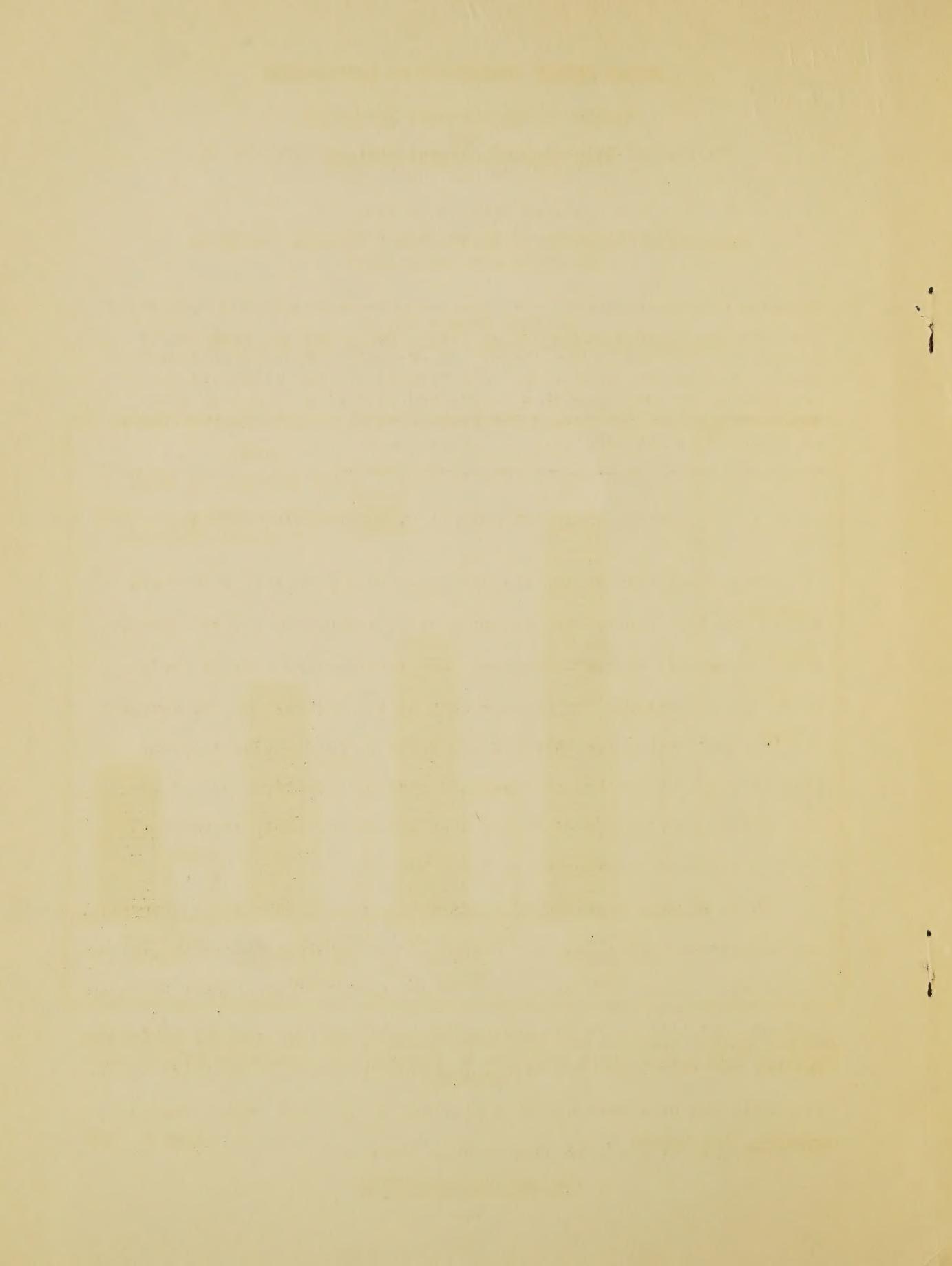


Average family earnings per week have risen in the San Joaquin Valley and Northern California camps relative to Imperial and Coachella Valleys and Arizona.

Berkeley, California

June 5, 1940

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Employment Situation of Agricultural Workers Living
in FSA Migratory Labor Camps

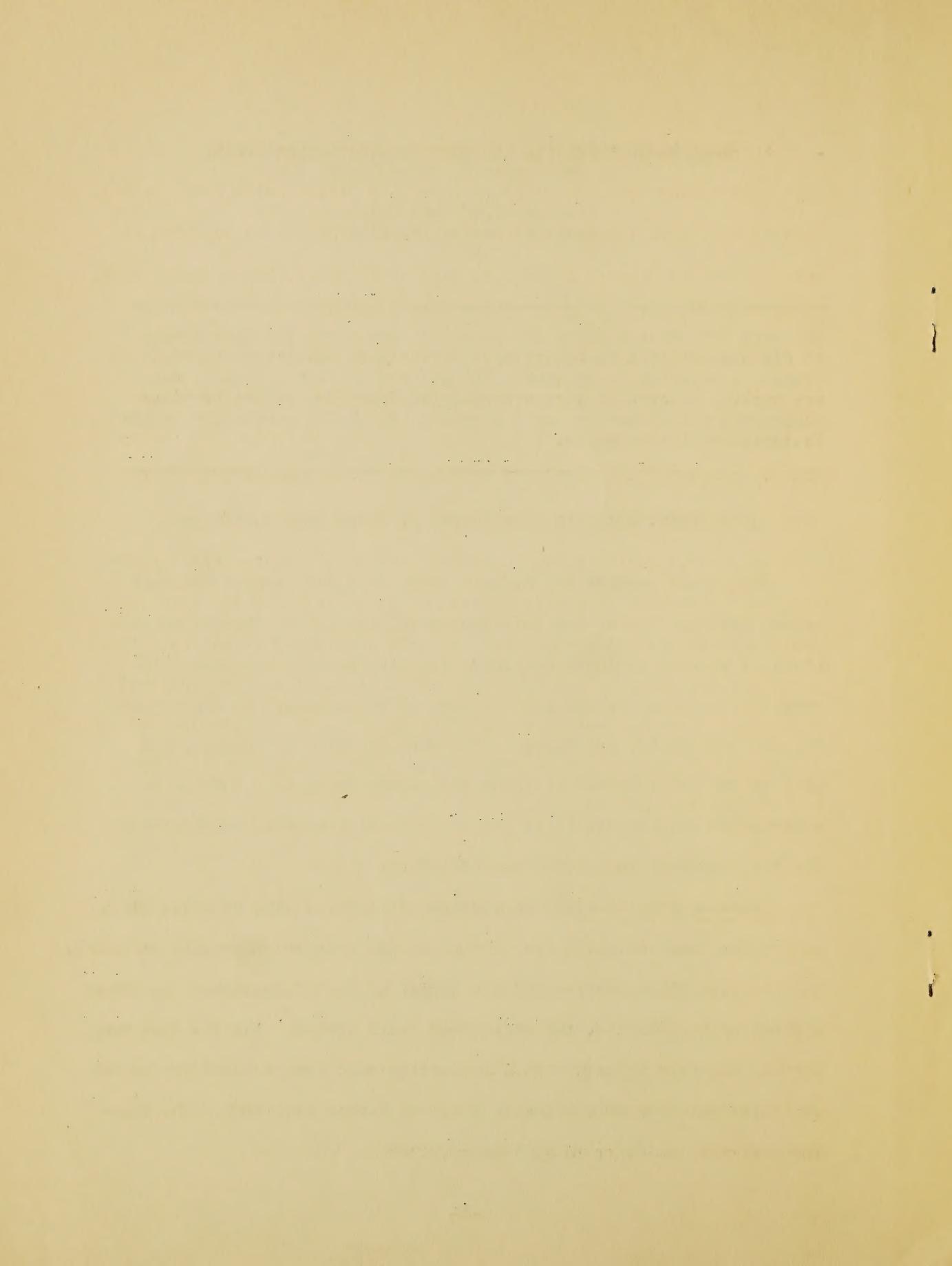
Arizona-California Camps
April 27 to May 18, 1940

The data for these reports are supplied from a ten per cent sample of all the families in the camps. An entirely new and different sample is selected every week. All members of each household who are working or seeking work are reported upon with regard to their employment activities during the week in which the particular family is included in the sample.

SIGNIFICANT SEASONAL IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Employment reached the highest point this year during the week ending May 11. During the following week, ending May 18, the proportions of workers employed declined, but nevertheless remained well above the average for the earlier part of the season. On the average for the four weeks, one third of the workers found employment; one half of the families had at least one person employed. This is in contrast to proportions of 23 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively for the four-week period ending April 20th.

Those working received an average of almost 4 days of employment, as compared with slightly over 3 days in the previous four-week period. The greater number working and the larger amount of employment by those working both influenced the employment index upward. For the week ending May 11, this index was 31.3 indicating that almost one-third of the available man-days were actually utilized during that week. The four-week average, at 21.7, is considerably lower.



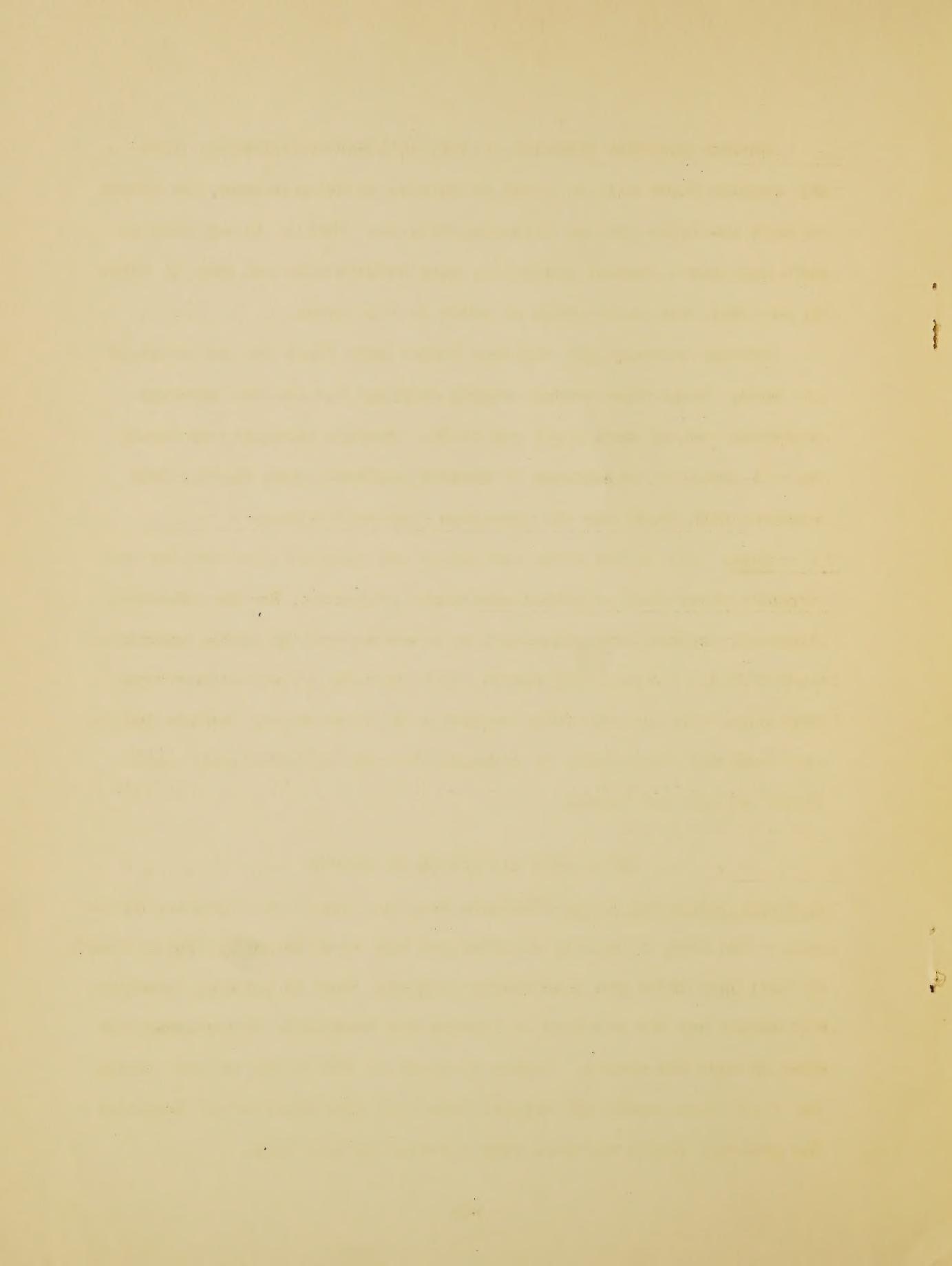
Average distance traveled to jobs declined appreciably. This may suggest there will be found an inverse relation between the amount of work available and the distance traveled. That is to say that as more employment becomes available, camp workers will not have to drive so far away from their camps in order to find jobs.

Average earnings per employed worker were \$2.16 per day or \$8.30 per week. Comparable average weekly earnings for the two previous four-week periods were \$5.76 and \$5.26. Average earnings per family for all families, regardless of whether employed, were \$5.78. This compares with \$2.52 for the preceding four-week period.

Note: All of the above employment and earnings data are for employment other than on public assistance projects. The two preceding four-week reports have endeavored to cover separately public assistance work (W.P.A., N.Y.A., Work Orders, etc) although it was evident that many camps were not carefully reporting in these items. Public assistance work will henceforth be withheld from the analysis until camps report it more uniformly.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS BY REGIONS

Northern California Camps (Windsor, Gridley, Yuba City, Winters, Thornton) - The most frequently reported job was peach thinning (30¢ an hour). At Yuba City there was some cherry picking. Work in cutting, pitching, and baling hay was reported at Winters and Thornton. Windsor reported work in hops and grapes. Tomato planting at 25¢ to 30¢ an hour during the first three weeks and general farm work were reported at Thornton. The greatest family earnings were reported in this area.



San Joaquin Valley Camps (Westley, Visalia, Shafter, Arvin, Corcoran) -

Peas, potatoes and cotton were the active crops in this area. At Westley there was picking and packing peas, some fruit thinning, general ranch work and work in hay. Chief work at Visalia was orange picking and during the first two weeks, cotton chopping. At Shafter the chief job was picking potatoes at 30¢ and 35¢ an hour and cotton chopping the last three weeks. Cutting onions was reported here during the last week. Potatoes, peas, and cotton also supplied employment at Shafter. The employment situation of the Valley camps shows a marked improvement over what has prevailed in the earlier part of the season.

Imperial and Coachella Valley Camps (Indio, Beaumont, Brawley, Holtville) - Again the largest proportion of worker and family employment occurred in this region. Mobile unit #1 has moved from Calipatria to Beaumont. Tying carrots was still the most important work at Brawley and Holtville. At Indio suckering corn was reported during the first week, picking tomatoes during the last. Some bean picking was reported throughout the period.

Arizona Camps (Agua Fria and 11-Mile Corners) - The lowest employment level and lowest family earnings were reported here. Cotton chopping was the chief job during the last two weeks. In addition, at Agua Fria picking and tying carrots was an important source of employment; at 11-Mile Corners hay baling and irrigation work at \$2 a day were important job sources.

Table 1.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT*

Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory
Labor Camps in California and Arizona

April 27 to May 18, 1940

	Week ending				
	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	Four week average
1. Percentage of workers receiving employment	25.6	30.3	44.9	35.7	33.9
2. Percentage of families with at least one worker employed	38.9	44.4	62.7	56.3	50.3
3. Average workers per family:					
(a) Employed on other than public assistance	.53	.61	.95	.73	.70
(b) Unemployed	1.48	1.36	1.14	1.27	1.32
(c) Total workers	2.07	2.01	2.11	2.04	2.06
4. Average days employment:					
(a) Employed workers	3.26	3.74	4.18	3.97	3.85
(b) All workers	.83	1.13	1.88	1.42	1.30
5. Employment index**					
	13.9	18.9	31.3	23.6	21.7
6. Average distance (in miles) from camp to job	8.8	6.3	8.2	7.2	7.6
(Camps included in above figures)	(14) (208)	(14) (207)	(13) (185)	(15) (213)	- (813)

* Public assistance projects excluded.

** Man days employment received on other than public assistance projects : man days available for employment (allowing for a six-day week). If all workers were fully employed the index number would be 100.



Table 2.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EARNINGS*

Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory
 Labor Camps in California and Arizona.
 April 27 to May 18, 1940

		Week ending				
		April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	Four week average
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1.	Average earnings:					
	(a) Per worker employed	6.76	7.98	8.69	9.20	8.30
	(b) Per worker: all workers	1.73	2.42	3.90	3.29	2.81
2.	Average family earnings:					
	(a) Per family with at least one worker employed	9.18	10.92	13.11	11.88	11.48
	(b) Per family: all families	3.58	4.86	8.22	6.69	5.78
	(Camps included in above figures)	(14)	(14)	(13)	(15)	-
	(Families included in above figures)	(208)	(207)	(185)	(213)	(813)

* Public assistance projects excluded.



Table 3.

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS*

Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory Labor Camps

in California and Arizona

April 27 to May 18, 1940

	Week ending					
	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 18	Four week average
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMPS						
1. Per cent of workers employed	:	27	:	32	:	34
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	:	43	:	44	:	47
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed	:	\$10.74	:	\$16.19	:	\$16.38
4. Average earnings: all families	:	\$4.60	:	\$7.10	:	\$7.71
5. Employment index	:	15.6	:	22.5	:	25.4
6. Average miles from camp to job	:	5.1	:	5.7	:	7.6
7. Number of camps included in above calculations	:	(5)	:	(5)	:	(5)
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	:	(56)	:	(57)	:	(68)
						(229)
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CAMPS						
1. Per cent of workers employed	:	19	:	26	:	42
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	:	32	:	41	:	68
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed	:	\$ 9.49	:	\$11.49	:	\$10.03
4. Average earnings: all families	:	\$ 2.99	:	\$ 4.65	:	\$ 6.78
5. Employment index	:	11.0	:	17.0	:	23.5
6. Average miles from camp to job	:	11.6	:	6.5	:	10.2
7. Number of camps included in above calculations	:	(5)	:	(4)	:	(4)
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	:	(92)	:	(79)	:	(74)
						(71)

* Public assistance projects excluded.

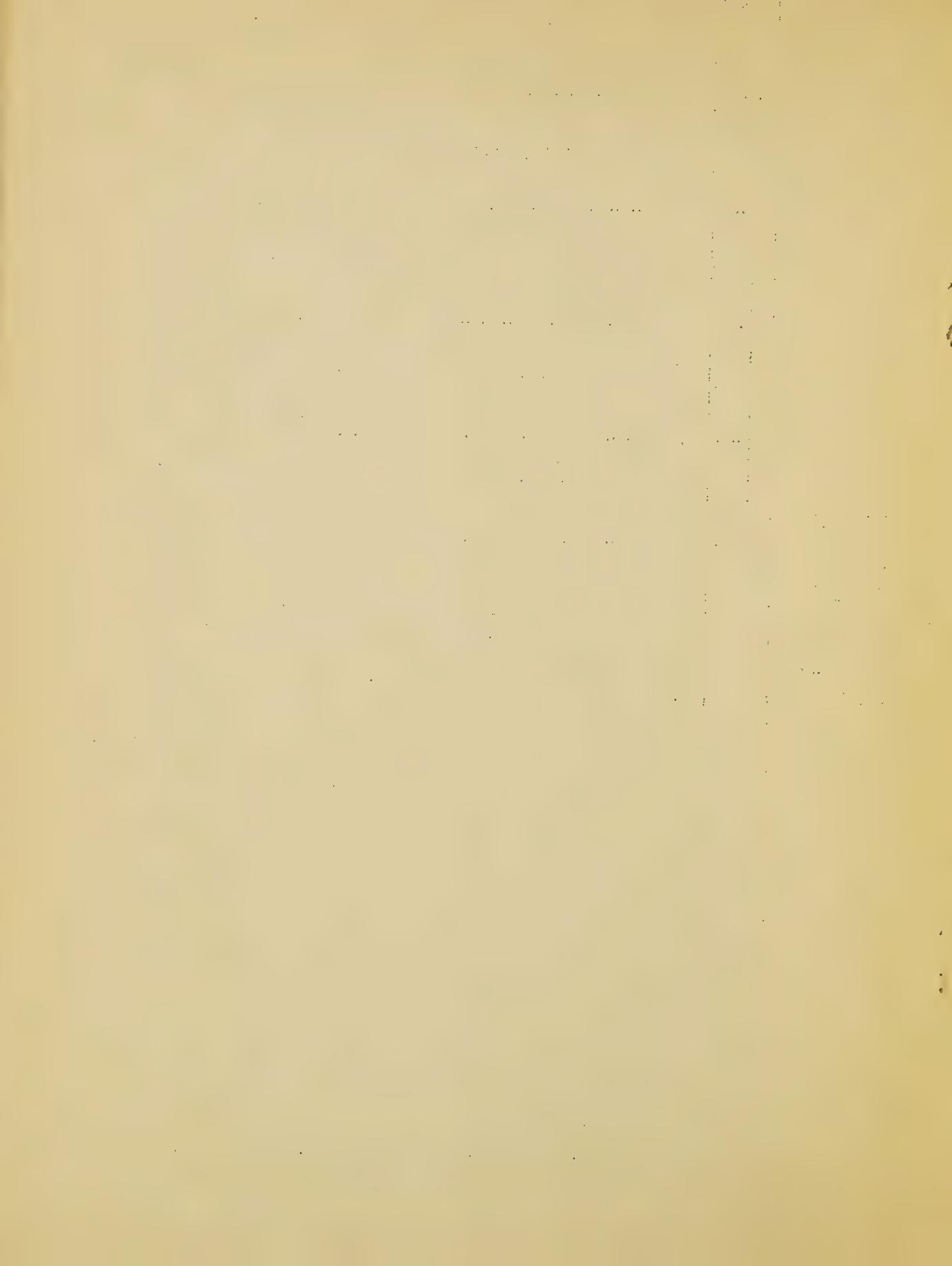
Table 3 (Contd.)

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS*

Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory Labor Camps
in California and Arizona
April 27 to May 18, 1940

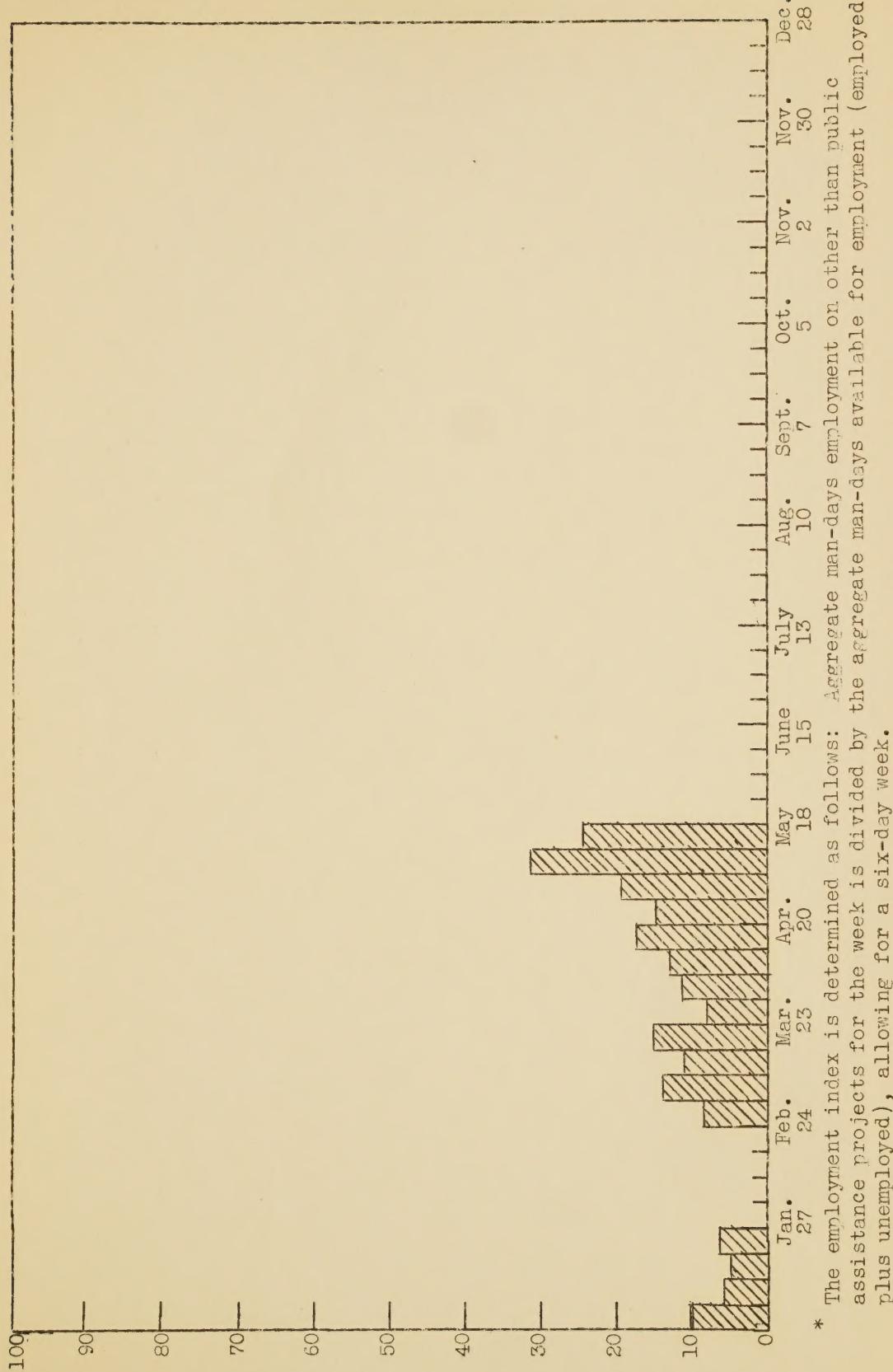
	Week ending				
	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	Four week average
IMPERIAL AND COACHELLA VALLEY CAMPS (INCLUDING BEAUMOUNT)					
1. Per cent of workers employed	:	76	:	65	:
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	:	77	:	67	:
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed	:	\$9.31	:	\$7.25	:
4. Average earnings: all families	:	\$7.20	:	\$1.84	:
5. Employment index	:	39.3	:	35.3	:
6. Average miles from camp to job	:	9.2	:	6.2	:
7. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	:	(2)	:	(3)	:
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	:	(22)	:	(36)	:
					(129)
ARIZONA CAMPS					
1. Per cent of workers employed	:	15	:	14	:
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	:	29	:	31	:
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed	:	\$4.75	:	\$5.34	:
4. Average earnings: all families	:	\$1.38	:	\$1.68	:
5. Employment index	:	6.3	:	7.1	:
6. Average miles from camp to job	:	7.7	:	8.5	:
7. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	:	(2)	:	(2)	:
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	:	(38)	:	(35)	:
					(139)

* Public assistance projects excluded.



WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT INDEX* FOR CALIFORNIA

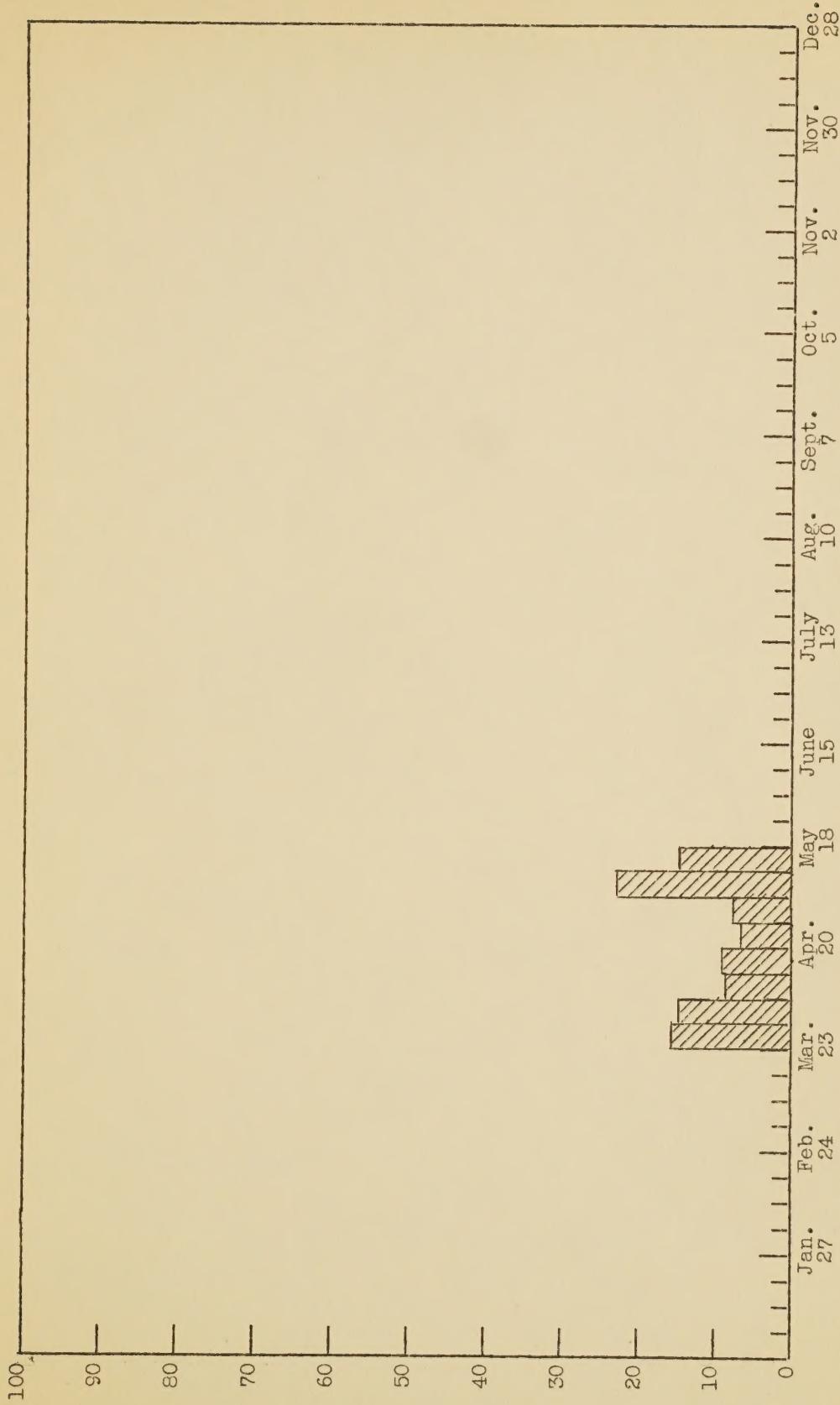
Farm Workers Living in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps.





WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT INDEX* FOR ARIZONA

Farm Workers Living in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps.



* The employment index is determined as follows: Aggregate man-days employment on other than public assistance projects for the week is divided by the aggregate man-days available for employment (employed plus unemployed), allowing for a six-day week.

